

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Klotz *et al.*

Confirmation No: To be assigned

Serial No.: To be assigned

Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Filed: September 24, 2003

Examiner: To be assigned

For: Microbial Trypsin Variants Having Chymotrypsin Activity and Nucleic Acids Encoding Same

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Before examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2-23, 25-31, 33-35, 37-51, 54-59, 65-67, 70-91, 93-99, 101-103, 105-119, and 122-127 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 24, 32, 36, 52, 53, 60-64, 68, 69, 92, 100, 104, 120, 121, 128-130 are pending. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application.

1. (Original) A microbial trypsin variant having chymotrypsin-like activity, comprising one or more modifications selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a substitution at one or more positions corresponding to positions 144, 193, 198, 201, 218, 223, 227, 228, 229, 230, and 231 of amino acids 25 to 248 of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) a deletion at one or more positions corresponding to positions 192, 197, and 226 of amino acids 25 to 248 of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(c) an insertion between positions corresponding to positions 224 and 225 of amino acids 25 to 248 of SEQ ID NO: 2;

wherein the microbial trypsin is (a) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence which has at least 70% identity to amino acids 25 to 248 of SEQ ID NO: 2; or (b) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleotide sequence